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CIA Searched For Own Spies In Bedrooms

BY JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington Bur. (News Bureau) — The Central Intelligence Agency's beleaguered counter intelligence division engaged in a widespread snooping campaign within the United States against CIA agents who did not live up to the agency's moral code, The News has learned.

Reliable sources say that the division, headed by James Angleton, who abruptly retired last month, put under surveillance CIA spies who had been turned in by co-workers because of their life styles.

One government official told The News: "Young secretaries on 22 year old would come into the counterintelligence unit and 'fess up' that they had been to bed with a married agent."

Threatened With Expulsion

The source said counterintelligence agents would call in the offenders and confront them with a detailed accounting of where they had dined and slept, and what they had said. The agents would be threatened with expulsion from the agency if they did not mend their ways.

Other sources argue that intelligence agents who carried on extramarital affairs were subject to blackmail and therefore were poor security risks.

Nevertheless, one source called Angleton "a Neanderthal" who was overly worried about security risks.

Angleton, and three top aides who quit this week, were also reported to be concerned that Soviet spies not only had an easy time penetrating U.S. society, but might have infiltrated the CIA itself.

Defends Some Activities

The agency has been under attack for its domestic spying activities, supposedly barred by law when the CIA was established in 1947. But there have been "gray areas" and the CIA has contended that some activities in the U.S. against foreign agents to protect CIA sources were legal.

The News reported on June 10, 1973, that the CIA had targeted a wide variety of American organizations including the Jewish fraternal group, B'nai B'rith, for surveillance.

The agency's "dirty tricks division," which specialized in clandestine operations such as wiretapping and break-ins, had been engaged in missions within the U.S. for more than five years, reliable sources said.

The spies have operated out of as many as 30 American cities, often using the supposedly overt "contact services" division as a "front."

Tourists Interviewed

Contact services is supposed to concentrate on interviewing tourists who return from foreign countries. But in the late 1960s a bitter battle broke out between "overt" agents and the "clandestine" operators over who would control contact services offices.

The clandestine crowd lost, but set up a parallel organization instead, using contact services field offices.

President Ford is expected to offer his own views next week on the roles the CIA should play within the U.S.

The current CIA director, William E. Colby, a former "dirty tricks" specialist, has submitted his own report to the chief executive on CIA domestic activities. His account is believed limited to answering already-published charges about illegal wiretapping and break-ins and is expected to raise more questions on Capitol Hill, where several committees are planning investigations.